

A Brief History of the Creation of North Carolina's Early Learning Standards

In September of 2002, a task force of nearly 60 early childhood professionals began work on what they were then calling North Carolina's Preschool Standards. This task force was convened by the Early Childhood Team of the NC Department of Public Instruction. The members represented various early childhood organizations and agencies, as well as classroom teachers and administrators.

The task force did most of their work in five committees – one for each domain of development and learning. Each committee drafted proposed standards, which were then reviewed by the other committees and revised. After more than a year of work, the first draft of NC's early learning standards was reviewed by early educators and administrators at 8 focus group sessions across the state.

Changes were made to the first draft, and a second draft was reviewed in full by early childhood leaders in North Carolina. There was then a third draft, which was reviewed by national early childhood leaders, who were requested to review specific domains.

Additional changes were made following the national review, and the final draft was submitted to the State Board of Education for endorsement. The early learning standards were also endorsed by the Governor's More at Four PreKindergarten Program, the NC Division of Child Development, and the NC Partnership for Children (Smart Start).

Foundations: Early Learning Standards for North Carolina Preschoolers and Strategies for Guiding their Success was officially released in December of 2004.

A list of the task force members, as well as a list of reviewers, can be found in the Roman numeral-numbered pages at the beginning of the document, or by clicking here:

http://www.osr.nc.gov/_pdf/PART-01-letter.acknowledgements.etc..pdf